

For the Love of Books
Young Thrives on Reading
by Mercy Yermo

Everyone falls in love with something during their lifetime. To some, sports are everything. To others, music is everything. But to junior Madison Young, reading is her first love.

Young began reading at the young age of three. She would memorize her favorite books and read them back to her parents. Back then, her favorite books were *Green Eggs and Ham* and *The Cat in the Hat*. Young's love for reading not only helped her gain knowledge quickly, but also became her net. When things got tough, she would find refuge in her books.

"I used to be really shy," Young said. "By reading, I escaped that shyness and lived in any world I wanted to, allowing me to be anything I wanted to be."

As time has gone by, reading has also taken a turn. It has grown along with her.

"Now, it's a stress reliever for me, as well as a welcome distraction from everyday drama," Young said.

After reading countless books, choosing a favorite might be a difficult task. However, Young has developed a love for a specific series.

"I love the Harry Potter series. My parents bought me the first one when I was in first grade," she said, "since then, I've read the entire series 32 times."

Most people take about one minute to read an average size page, but Madison takes that same amount of time to read up to three pages unless she's already read that book.

"Everytime I reread a book, I read it a little faster," Madison said. "I can read about 5-6 pages of a Harry Potter book in a minute, and four of the books in a day."

On average, Madison reads anywhere from twenty to twenty-five books total per month depending on her interest level for the book and the amount of schoolwork she must get done. However, nothing stops her passion.

"To me, reading a book is the same as watching a movie, except you direct it," Madison said.

The junior has read the works of several different authors, but her favorites include J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien and Shakespeare.

"J.R.R. Tolkien created an entire world and includes pages of just the description of the settings. I really admire that dedication," Madison said. "As for Shakespeare, I love his stories and I think it's amazing that he added so many words to the English language."

Not only is Madison completely in love with reading, but also with learning. She holds the valedictorian position for the class of 2017. In the midst of keeping up with school, it can be hard to balance it all.

"Fortunately for me, it's not hard to finish my work in a timely manner if I focus," Madison said. "I also wake up early to get an hour or so of reading before school."

In middle school, Madison set the AR record in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade after being challenged by Mr. Heiner, the Vice Principal at BMS.

"He told me that he would put a plaque in the library if I beat my own record three consecutive years," Madison said. "I succeeded, and Mr. Heiner made me an amazing plaque."

Madison has had a positive impact on everyone from middle school to high school. One of her favorite teachers, Clifton Tierney, thinks very highly of Young.

"I enjoyed teaching Madison. She always had a positive attitude and willingness to learn," Tierney said.

Along with Tierney, her choir teacher, Mrs. Holmes defines Young as an excellent student and person.

"She is very enthusiastic and very kind. She always looks around and sees who needs help. She's awesome," Holmes said. Madison hopes to attend UT Austin in the fall of 2017 and become a lawyer. However, her love for reading will stay with her forever.

"I will always love reading, and I want to spread that love of reading to everyone I can."